

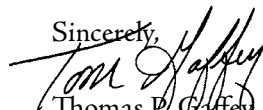
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[www.senatedems.ct.gov/Gaffey.html](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov/Gaffey.html)

Dear Neighbors,

With new leadership in the General Assembly and in the Governor's office, the 2005 legislative session was filled with new opportunity. Crucial issues were debated with a fresh perspective and many accomplishments resulted.

In particular, we made important improvements in the state's commitment to help cities and towns meet the needs of residents. I have included in this report a chart that details the additional aid provided to Cheshire.

I have also included a short summary of some additional issues that were addressed. Because of the space constraints in this report, I'd like to make sure that you know that additional and more detailed information is available on my website. If you have additional concerns or questions, you can call my office.

Sincerely,  
  
Thomas P. Gaffey  
State Senator, 13th District



Legislative Office Building, Room 3100  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

S T A T E   S E N A T O R

# THOMAS P. GAFFEY

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*Representing the 13th District:*  
*Cheshire, Meriden, Middlefield, Rockfall & Middletown*

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## STATE SENATOR **THOMAS P. GAFFEY**

### 2005 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Senator Gaffey hosted members of the Cheshire Senior Center at the State Capitol. The group is pictured here in the Chamber of the Connecticut State Senate.

# STATE AID

FOR THE TOWN OF

# C H E S H I R E

Cheshire will receive more state aid than last year to assist with school budgets, maintain roads and help pay for other general services.

	FY 04-05	FY 05-06	INCREASE FROM FY 04-05
Aid to Towns for Schools	\$7,608,119	\$7,825,067	\$216,948
Other Municipal Grants	\$3,927,397	\$4,088,583	\$161,186
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$11,535,516</b>	<b>\$11,913,300</b>	<b>\$378,134</b>

### Keeping Kids Healthy

- Required the Department of Education to develop guidelines for managing students with life threatening food allergies and to make those guidelines available to all boards of education

### Protecting Consumers

- Mandated that retailers provide warnings if limits on the number or the dollar amounts of merchandise are placed on returns. These return policies must be clearly posted in the store for consumers
- Required retailers to notify a consumer, in writing, if the retailer intends to terminate that consumer's ability to return goods
- Subjected stores to the possibility of penalties under the new law if stores fail to refund or give store credit to consumers who have met the posted return/refund policy
- Enacted other consumer-friendly legislation: Gift cards will be exempt from the abandoned property statute, and they won't be turned over to the state if unused. Connecticut consumers can now rest assured that any gift card sold in the state truly does not have an expiration date

### Protecting the Environment

- Established a farmland preservation/affordable housing program to create a fund of approximately \$30 million per year for farmland and open space preservation, affordable housing and historic preservation

### Providing Opportunity for Students

- Passed the largest expansion of the School Readiness program since its inception
- Assisted our state colleges and universities with an additional \$52 million more than originally proposed

### Making Healthcare Accessible

- Introduced legislation to limit the co-payment, deductible or any other out-of-pocket expense an insurance company may charge for imaging, including MRI's and CAT scans. While this bill passed in the Senate, due to the final crunch of business, the House was unable to take it up. I intend to reintroduce this legislation next session and work hard to see that it becomes law